

with an opportunity to recognize women business owners and executives for their outstanding endeavors to expand the influence of women in business.

Chartered in 1980, the Greater Detroit Chapter of NAWBO was founded to further the mission of its national organization in Southeast Michigan region; to expand the access of women to the top echelons of decision-making in social, economic and political endeavors around the world. To execute this mission, the members of NAWBO, both in Detroit and across the country, engaged in an exchange of knowledge and experiences that allowed them to develop and hone their entrepreneurial skills. Specifically, NAWBO sponsors programming that is designed to strengthen the capacity of its members to promote economic development, create innovative and effective change in business culture, build strategic partnerships and influence public policy discussions.

To support these goals and its mission, the Greater Detroit Chapter of NAWBO hosts a number of events like Entrepreneur-YOU, which provides women entrepreneurs with a workshop to support the development of critical skills for creating and running a business; expos that allow members and the community at-large with a chance to build their social and business networks; and the Circle of Learning, which allows members to directly interact with each other in an effort to strengthen their brand, work culture and performance.

The Top 10 Awards allows NAWBO to recognize leading women in business from Southeast Michigan, whose work is expanding the opportunities for women, to be recognized by their peers for their commitment, their vision and, most importantly, their excellence. I am pleased to congratulate this year's winners: Barabara Whittaker, Suzanne Bobbitt, Eva Scurlock, Mary Buchzeiger, Ann Reinman, Jmai Moore, Pamela Smith, Mashell Carissimi, Mary Ann Lievois, Carla Walker-Miller and Shirley R. Stancato, on the remarkable impact they are making on the Greater Detroit community.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Women's History Month and reflect upon the remarkable impact women have made on our country, I am honored to recognize the Greater Detroit Chapter of NAWBO and this year's Top 10 Awards winners for the work they are doing to expand opportunities for women in business. For the last thirty-four years, the members of NAWBO in Southeast Michigan have been at the forefront of supporting women in business and I wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 86 (Cummings Amendment), rollcall No. 87 (Connolly Amendment), rollcall No. 88 (Jackson Lee Amendment) and rollcall No. 89 (Motion to Recommit), which took place Friday, February 28, 2014; I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 90 (Final Passage of H.R. 899), I would have voted "aye."

JULIE VILLEGAS

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Julie Villegas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Julie Villegas is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Julie Villegas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Julie Villegas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### CONDEMNING VIOLATION OF UKRAINIAN SOVEREIGNTY, INDEPENDENCE, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 499, a resolution condemning the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity by military forces of the Russian Federation.

This resolution is a loud, strong message from this body, the House of Representatives, the People's House, that the people of the United States stand firmly behind the people of Ukraine in their mission to maintain their independence, free from Russian aggression.

Our friends in the world must always have full assurance that we are with them, that our resolve is unshakeable, and that nothing will intimidate us.

This resolution lays out what our game plan looks like as we take concrete steps to back our friends in Ukraine. I want to focus on one key part of this plan: achieving energy independence for Ukraine and the region.

For too long Russia has used the threat of manipulating energy prices and supplies to impose economic and political pressure on Ukraine and other countries. This has got to stop.

We can provide a reliable source of energy to our partners in Europe. Congress is ready to do its part. However, the Obama administration needs to speed up the permit approval process to get liquid natural gas flowing to our friends in Europe, approve the Keystone XL pipeline, and take other pro-American, pro-growth, pro-energy actions. There is truly no better time than now.

We can hit Vladimir Putin where it hurts—in the wallet. We can strengthen Ukraine's hand

in the short run and sell them the fuel they need for the long haul. We can create jobs for American workers—good, meaningful jobs. It just makes sense.

I urge support for H. Res. 499.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,495,622,444,209.79. We've added \$6,868,745,395,296.71 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### RECOGNITION OF SAM SIMON AND THE ACTUAL DANCE

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Samuel A. Simon on the success of his important one man performance, The Actual Dance. By creating and performing this moving and evocative show, Sam has helped to increase awareness about the lesser-known experience of spouses who have lost loved ones to breast cancer, a cruel and devastating disease that continues to affect far too many Americans.

Mr. Simon, a resident of Fairfax County, Virginia, and a close family friend, was inspired to create his one man show when his wife, Susan, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2000. Sam used his family's personal struggle as a source of inspiration to create a one man drama, so that he could educate and mobilize audiences across the country. He first told the story of his spiritual journey at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival, right here in Washington, DC. Since then he has performed across the Mid-Atlantic and in New York City, where his performance has earned the praise of audiences and critics alike. He was honored with the 2013 Northern Virginia Theater Alliance Award for Best Production of an Original Play, as well as Best Overall Production. The NVTA also nominated Sam for Best Actor, and in New York, the Midtown International Theatre Festival nominated Sam for Best Playwright.

Clearly, Mr. Simon's show is an artistic success. But more than that, by sharing his family's personal experience with breast cancer, Sam has given voice to Americans all across the country who have battled this disease: mothers, sisters, spouses, even Members of Congress. In my home state of Virginia, the number of women diagnosed each year now tops 6,200. Advocates like Sam Simon, who are willing to share their experience and strength, give hope to all the families that suffer because of this terrible disease. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to recognize